

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Sharon Y. Bowen, of New York, to be a Commissioner of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission for a term expiring April 13, 2018.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. REID. I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to report the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Sharon Y. Bowen, of New York, to be a Commissioner of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission.

Harry Reid, Debbie Stabenow, Richard J. Durbin, Barbara Boxer, Michael F. Bennet, Benjamin L. Cardin, Ron Wyden, Joe Donnelly, Christopher A. Coons, Mark Begich, Tim Kaine, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Sherrod Brown, Patrick J. Leahy, Tom Harkin, Angus S. King, Jr., Amy Klobuchar.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum under rule XXII be waived.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. REID. I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF MARK G. MASTROIANNI TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF MASSACHUSETTS

Mr. REID. I now move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 691.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Mark G. Mastroianni, of Massachusetts, to be United States District Judge for the District of Massachusetts.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. REID. I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to report the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination

of Mark G. Mastroianni, of Massachusetts, to be United States District Judge for the District of Massachusetts.

Harry Reid, Patrick J. Leahy, Al Franken, Barbara Boxer, Christopher A. Coons, Richard J. Durbin, Sherrod Brown, Richard Blumenthal, Carl Levin, Bill Nelson, Amy Klobuchar, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Elizabeth Warren, Sheldon Whitehouse, Mazie Hirono, Tom Harkin, Tom Udall.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum under rule XXII be waived.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. REID. I now move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF BRUCE HOWE HENDRICKS TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF SOUTH CAROLINA

Mr. REID. I now move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 692.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Bruce Howe Hendricks, of South Carolina, to be United States District Judge for the District of South Carolina.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. REID. There is a cloture motion at the desk on file with the clerk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to report the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Bruce Howe Hendricks, of South Carolina, to be United States District Judge for the District of South Carolina.

Harry Reid, Patrick J. Leahy, Al Franken, Barbara Boxer, Christopher A. Coons, Richard J. Durbin, Sherrod Brown, Richard Blumenthal, Carl Levin, Bill Nelson, Amy Klobuchar, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Elizabeth Warren, Sheldon Whitehouse, Mazie Hirono, Tom Harkin, Tom Udall.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum under rule XXII be waived.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. REID. I now move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF TANYA S. CHUTKAN TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Mr. REID. I now move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 733.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Tanya S. Chutkan, of the District of Columbia, to be United States District Judge for the District of Columbia.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. REID. Madam President, there is a cloture motion filed at the desk. I ask that it be reported.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to report the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Tanya S. Chutkan, of the District of Columbia, to be United States District Judge for the District of Columbia.

Harry Reid, Patrick J. Leahy, Al Franken, Barbara Boxer, Christopher A. Coons, Richard J. Durbin, Sherrod Brown, Richard Blumenthal, Carl Levin, Bill Nelson, Amy Klobuchar, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Elizabeth Warren, Sheldon Whitehouse, Mazie Hirono, Tom Harkin, Tom Udall.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum under rule XXII be waived.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. REID. I now move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF SYLVIA MATHEWS BURWELL TO BE SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Mr. REID. I now move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 798.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Sylvia Mathews Burwell, of West Virginia, to be Secretary of Health and Human Services.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. REID. There is a cloture motion on file at the desk and I ask that it be reported.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to report the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Sylvia Mathews Burwell, of West Virginia, to be Secretary of Health and Human Services.

Harry Reid, Ron Wyden, Tom Harkin, Richard J. Durbin, Barbara Boxer, Michael F. Bennet, Debbie Stabenow, Benjamin L. Cardin, Mary Landrieu, Mark Begich, Joe Donnelly, Tim Kaine, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Sherrod Brown, Patrick J. Leahy, Tom Harkin, Angus S. King, Jr.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum under rule XXII be waived.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. REID. I now move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to a period of morning business, with Senators allowed to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNIZING REMOTE ACCESS MEDICAL

Mr. REID. Madam President, fans of the popular reality television series "Wild Kingdom" may recall watching Stan Brock wrestle giant anacondas in the Amazon and corral wildebeests in the Serengeti, but for the past three decades, he has been engaged in a very different kind of struggle. In 1985, he founded a nonprofit organization known as Remote Area Medical, RAM, with the stated goal of "addressing the needless pain and suffering caused by the lack of healthcare in impoverished, underserved, and isolated areas." Since its inception, RAM has hosted 724 free medical events in which over 80,000 volunteers have delivered \$75 million in free medical, dental and vision care. It is not uncommon for patients to travel hundreds of miles to attend one of these events or to sleep in their cars while they wait for the free clinics to open.

Last month, I had the opportunity to witness RAM in action when they held a 3-day medical event at Hug High School in Reno, NV. In the short time I was there, I saw hundreds of Nevadans filter through the clinic to receive much needed dental work, vaccinations, eye exams, free glasses, mental health screenings, and general medical work ups—all with short waits and at no cost to the patients. The patients attending the clinic were so grateful to finally receive a much needed x ray, pair of glasses, and many other services. I spoke with many of the volunteers—doctors, nurses, dentists—and they were all thrilled to be a part something so meaningful that fills a void for individuals who have no other way to access some of these critical services. A similar scene played out in Las Vegas earlier in the month, where RAM held a 2-day event at Bonanza High School. In total, the RAM team of 597 volunteers served 1,712 patients and provided almost one-half million dollars in care during their two expeditions in Nevada last month.

RAM was able to bring these events to Nevada because it is one of only a few States that allows licensed medical professionals from other States to volunteer at free medical services events. I have witnessed firsthand the value of these events—both for the patients they serve and for those volunteers who want to find a way to donate their professional expertise in a meaningful way. That is why I am convinced that we need Federal legislation that will allow medical practitioners to cross State lines to provide free volunteer care. Senator BOXER has been working to craft such legislation, and I look forward to supporting her in this effort.

Stan Brock's work has been exemplary. Through his efforts, hundreds of thousands of people in need of have received proper healthcare—some for the first time in their lives. My own appreciation for RAM was cemented as I personally witnessed this noble work. Watching Stan and his team work together to help so many unfortunate Nevadans was a moving experience for me. I thank Stan Brock, RAM, and all of the selfless volunteers for giving so much of themselves to those with so little.

VETERANS HEALTH CARE

Ms. MIKULSKI. Madam President, I come to the floor today in recognition of the approaching Memorial Day holiday to express my deepest gratitude, respect, and appreciation for the men and women of our Armed Forces and for our veterans. In order to commemorate our vets, the first bill to be marked up and passed out of my Appropriations Committee was the Fiscal Year 2015 Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies bill. I wanted to make sure that there is no question in anyone's mind that veterans are my No. 1 priority.

As the chairwoman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, I have put

money in the Federal checkbook to improve the veterans health care system so that wounded and disabled warriors get the care and benefits they need. I have worked to ensure veterans suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder, PTSD, or a traumatic brain injury, TBI, receive better diagnosis and treatment through the Defense Department and the VA.

In the bill that passed out of my committee today, we established even more checks on the VA by including an additional \$5 million to investigate the wait time practices at all VA medical treatment facilities nationwide. Our committee must invoke even more oversight to ensure that the tragedy that occurred at the Phoenix, AZ VA hospital is not repeated again in other hospitals. The greatest power my committee has is holding the VA accountable by closing the purse strings of their budget. One way we are doing this is by restricting performance bonuses for medical directors, assistant directors, and senior executive services staff until after the inspector general completes its audit on wait times at nationwide veterans treatment facilities. We need to continue to ensure that the VA is being held accountable. That is why I, along with a number of my colleagues, sent a letter to President Obama demanding an investigation by the VA's IG to evaluate the secret lists being kept at the Phoenix VA hospital.

I have also led the charge to reduce the backlog in processing veterans' disability claims. I brought Secretary Shinseki to Baltimore to create a sense of urgency to end the backlog by 2015. I used my power as chairwoman of the Appropriations Committee to convene a hearing with the top brass in the military, VA, and members of the committee to identify challenges and get moving on solutions. I cut across agencies to break down smokestacks and developed a 10-point Checklist for Change enacted as part of the fiscal year 2014 Omnibus appropriations bill. This plan includes better funding, better technology, better training, and better oversight of the VA.

I believe we must keep the promises we have made to our veterans. We can do this by giving them the same quality of service they gave us and by providing them with the care they deserve.

We made a sacred commitment to honor those who served by giving them the benefits they have earned. I will continue to fight for better benefits and treatment for our vets. And I am committed to holding the VA accountable through the powers provided to me through the Appropriations Committee.

MEMORIAL DAY

Mr. COCHRAN. Madam President, on Memorial Day 2014, I will join a grateful nation in paying homage to the men and women of our Armed Forces